



COVID 19 (nCorona) Virus Outbreak Control and Prevention State Cell

Health & Family Welfare Department

Government of Kerala

**COVID-19 STATE MEDICAL BOARD DECISION WITH REGARD TO QUARANTINE OF
HEALTHCARE WORKERS WHO ARE LOW RISK ASYMPTOMATIC SECONDARY CONTACTS OF
A PROVEN COVID-19 CASE**

No./31/2020/Health – 24th March 2020

WHO has declared the COVID-19 epidemic affecting more than 195 countries as a Pandemic. Due to the inflow of persons from affected countries, Kerala state has strengthened the surveillance and control measures against the disease.

State Medical Board discussed in detail the issue of period of quarantine of healthcare workers [HCW] who are low risk asymptomatic secondary contacts of a proven COVID-19 case.

The State Medical Board has decided to direct the low risk asymptomatic secondary contact HCW to wear surgical masks and to ensure standard precautions while engaging in patient care. In case the primary contacts of this low risk asymptomatic secondary contacts turn out to be symptomatic or test positive, the secondary contact must go into home quarantine.

The duration of home quarantine will depend on risk assessment. If the low risk secondary contacts become symptomatic, they will have to go into hospital/home isolation based on clinical categorization.

Duration of which will be decided based on the test status. The board recommends testing all the HCW who are either primary or high risk secondary contacts at the end of 14 days of quarantine to ascertain the absence of viral shedding. Based on this result the duration of quarantine will be decided.

The advisory may be followed up by the treating team and the Hospital Medical Board. If there is any doubt, teams may consult the State Medical Board.


Principal Secretary